



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending September 16, 2022**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, September 19:
 - Village Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Tuesday, September 20:
 - Building Code Advisory Committee, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday, September 21:
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Thursday, September 22:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Friday, September 23:
 - No meetings scheduled

**COVID-19 Weekly Reports are posted at www.oak-park.us/covid19
just click on the *Status report bulletin* heading**

Farmers' Market hosting Pie Bake-Off – The Oak Park Farmers' Market's annual Pie Bake-Off takes place from about 9 to 11 a.m. this Saturday, Sept. 17 in the Pilgrim Church parking lot at 460 Lake Street. A panel of three judges will choose a first, second and third place winner from this year's entrants. To top it off, slices of pie will be given away to Market visitors after the contest on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information about the Pie Bake-Off, visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket. Farmers' Market supporters also have until Monday, Sept. 19 cast a vote for the Oak Park Farmers' Market as part of a \$10,000 grant giveaway organized by the American Farmland Trust and the Farmers Market Coalition. Officials say the grant funding would be used to help continue the smooth operation of the Market. [Click here to cast a vote for the Oak Park Farmers' Market.](#)

Convivencia festival this Saturday – Oak Parkers are invited to celebrate Latinx culture at the inaugural Convivencia Hispanic Heritage Month festival from noon to 4 p.m. this Saturday, Sept. 17 in Taylor Park. Organized by the Oak Park Regional Housing Center, Convivencia will feature Latin American foods, live music, cultural dance, face painting and information about community resources. The Village's sustainability team will be on hand sharing information about *Climate Ready Oak Park*, the community's newly-adopted comprehensive climate plan. More information about Convivencia can be found at www.oprhc.org/convivencia.

Pawfficer Howie birthday celebration – All are welcome to stop by as the Police Department celebrates Pawfficer Howie's third birthday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. next Monday, Sept. 19 on the grassy field to the south of Village Hall, 123 Madison St. In lieu of gifts and treats, donations to the Animal Care League would be welcomed and appreciated. Howie, the Police Department's officer wellness and community service dog, joined the department last year and regularly attends community events. You can follow Howie on Instagram at www.instagram.com/pawfficer_howie to see more of his life as a therapeutic service dog.

Community survey on horizon – Information gathering for a Village-wide community survey is about to begin as Oak Park residential addresses selected at random will start receiving questionnaires by mail in early October. Residents selected to participate in the survey will be able to submit their answers online using a special code intended to ensure that the respondent sample is truly random, a factor critical to ensuring the validity of the findings. New this year will be an opportunity for the entire community to weigh in as part of an open participation window that will begin about four weeks after the random sample surveys are mailed. The survey is being conducted by Polco (formerly the National Research Center, Inc.), a social science research firm that conducted surveys here in 2000, 2004, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019. Results of past surveys are posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/communitysurveys.

IGOV meeting to focus on sustainability – Community members are invited to learn more about Oak Park's comprehensive climate plan, *Climate Ready Oak Park*, and the steps Oak Park's governing partners are taking to address climate change at the next IGOV meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24 in the cafeteria at Oak Park and River Forest High School, 201 Scoville Ave. The informational workshop will include tips for saving on energy bills and information about planting native gardens, green transportation, composting and recycling. Attendees can also participate in small group discussions focusing on areas highlighted in *Climate Ready Oak Park*. Following the IGOV meeting, OPRF will host Image OPRF Project 1 tours highlighting the high school's most significant renovation in 50 years from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Plan Commission update – The Plan Commission will review at its Sept. 22 meeting a request to rezone the property at 327-329 Home Ave. from the existing R-5 two-family zoning district to the R-6 multiple family zoning district. The property currently contains four dwelling units, which are considered legal-nonconforming. The applicant is proposing to construct four additional dwelling units on the property, if the rezoning is approved, resulting in a total of eight dwelling units on the property. The subject property is located between a 19-unit condominium building to the south and a duplex to the north.

Vehicle license update – The Village has sold 16,752 vehicle licenses totaling \$1,124,667 in revenue through 19 weeks of sales. This represents a 12-percent drop in sales compared to last year, though residents can still purchase vehicle licenses through the end of the year. The Police Department's Parking Enforcement Officers continue to use license plate recognition technology to ensure compliance. [Click here](#) to view a chart that compares year-end vehicle licenses sales over the past three years with sales through Sept. 9 of this year.

Sewer improvements update – Work is progressing at three locations undergoing sewer improvements. A detour is in place for northbound traffic on Oak Park Avenue at Thomas Street as crews continue to replace sewer along Thomas from Grove to Linden. The contractor expects to complete sewer replacement work on Thomas next week. On Lenox Street, all concrete sidewalks, curbs and driveway aprons have been poured and full-depth removal of the roadway is underway. On Kenilworth Avenue, all remaining concrete sidewalks have been poured and the final layer of asphalt is expected to be placed next week.

Street resurfacing update – The removal and replacement of concrete curbs, sidewalks and driveways is continuing at various locations in preparation for upcoming street resurfacing work. Pavement milling will begin at select locations next week. A map showing the streets undergoing resurfacing work can be found under the 2022 project tab at www.oak-park.us/construction.

Pleasant & Marion development – Crews completed the precast erection for the future parking garage and elevator shaft at the site of the new development at Pleasant and Marion streets. The detailing work for the precast structures is ongoing. Crews are also prepping the subgrade for upcoming concrete pours.

Pete's Fresh Market update – Excavation work for the underground storm water detention system continued at the site of the new Pete's Fresh Market on Madison Street. Crews anticipate pouring the foundation for the new detention system next week.

Employee news – The Health Department welcomed Perry Kubala to the role of Animal Control Officer this week. A graduate of the University of Illinois, Perry is a certified animal control officer and humane investigator with eight years of experience in animal welfare and rescue work. The Village's Animal Control Officer investigates local animal welfare issues, enforces codes, captures stray animals, licenses all dogs and outdoor cats, and supports wildlife management efforts.